

## **USDA Creates New Small Farm Office**

**O**n October 7, USDA Secretary Dan Glickman announced plans to create a Council on Small Farms and a new office at USDA that will deal specifically with small farm issues. Glickman told a meeting of the USDA National Commission on Small Farms that the new office will coordinate USDA agencies' responses to the recommendations of the Commission and will help to institutionalize the Department's interests in small farm issues. USDA Deputy Secretary Richard Rominger will serve as Chair of the Council, and Adela Backiel will serve as the Council's Executive Director.

"From promoting farmers' markets to fighting concentration in the marketplace, USDA is committed to helping small farms not only survive, but thrive," Glickman said. "This office, reporting directly to me, will maintain the focus of all USDA's agencies on small and family farmers."

Currently Director of Sustainable Development at USDA, Backiel previously served as Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment. The new Office of Small Farms and Sustainable Development will be supported by two Deputy Directors. For additional information, e-mail the Office ([smallfarm@usda.gov](mailto:smallfarm@usda.gov)) or call the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) Small Farm InfoLine (1-800/583-3071). ■



*Conference Chair Jill Long Thompson and Tipper Gore at the Second International Conference on Women in Agriculture, held in Washington, DC, June 28–July 2.—USDA PHOTO/KEN HAMMOND*

## **Int'l Conference on Women in Agriculture Held**

**T**he Second International Conference on Women in Agriculture, "Women Feeding the World," was held in Washington, DC, June 28–July 2. Sponsored by The President's Interagency Council on Women, the meeting featured several keynote presentations as well as caucuses, exhibits, and more than 100 small-group sessions focusing on the business of agriculture, the agricultural economy, and the agricultural community. More than 1,000 women and men from more than 50 countries participated in the conference.

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, Honorary Chair of the conference, greeted participants via videotape June 28. Clinton, who was accompanying President Clinton on a State

visit to China, expressed her concern for the well-being of rural women, noting the obstacles they face and the importance of their role in the rural economy.

In a keynote address June 29, Tipper Gore also emphasized women's contributions, stating, "It is time to acknowledge women in agriculture and value that role. Their contributions are deserving of value by society because women contribute to the economics of their households, communities, and the world. This role is becoming recognized as key to the survival of mankind."

"One of the biggest issues facing women farmers today is the future of small farmers," USDA Secretary Dan Glickman noted in a July 1 address at the conference. "One of the biggest issues before U.S. agriculture today is restitching the safety net, so it is there for farmers in hard times—so one bad crop, one natural disaster, or one year

*CONTINUED ON PG. 6...*

## Nat'l Small Farm Conference Is Scheduled

Planning is underway for a National Small Farm Conference to be held October 12-15, 1999, in St. Louis, Missouri. The meeting will be sponsored by USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service in collaboration with other USDA agencies, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, land-grant colleges and universities, and various

community-based groups and non-profit organizations.

The conference will provide a forum in which small farmers, community leaders, extension faculty, representatives of community and nonprofit groups, and others can share new approaches to small farm programs. Extension faculty may wish to use the conference as an inservice training opportunity. Further information on the meeting is available on the CSREES Small Farm Program website (<http://www.reeusda.gov/smallfarm>).

## USDA Secretary Addresses Civil Rights Issues

USDA Secretary Dan Glickman addressed issues of discrimination and redress for black farmers July 15 at the 89th Annual Convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in Atlanta. As keynote speaker at a session entitled "Plight of the Black Farmer," Glickman traced the history of black participation in American agriculture, stating, "...[T]he continuing struggle of black farmers—30 years after our civil rights movement—reminds us just how far our Nation has yet to go to turn civil rights into civil realities. Today in America," he noted, "black-owned farms are disappearing at three times the rate of farms generally."

Glickman also noted racial discrimination in USDA history. "We are seeking a new day at USDA," he stated, citing the 92 recommendations set forth by USDA's Civil Rights Action Team to improve USDA's civil rights record. "It is a strong start, but it is only a start. ...If our goal is not simply reforming government, but turning

## Small Farm Program Tips

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**CSREES Small Farm InfoLine**  
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## Women Share Farming Views

*The Second International Conference on Women in Agriculture, held in Washington, DC, June 28-July 2 (see story, p. 1), afforded a unique international group the opportunity to exchange ideas and strategies on agricultural topics. Seeking individual perspectives, Small Farm Digest asked several participants to share their thoughts on farming and their lives.*



PHOTO BY B. LITTON

Ministering to inner-city youth through agricultural education is a top priority for **Carolyn Thomas**,

director of a youth-action group housed in the Robert Taylor Homes Housing Project in South Chicago. Founded by the African Methodist Episcopal Church to provide young people with alternatives to gang activity, the God's Gang youth group is involved in a wide range of agricultural projects, including a community garden, a farmers' market, and a food pantry for poor families. "This project teaches inner-city kids where food and fiber come from," Carolyn noted. "They are also learning to treat the Earth with respect by learning recycling principles."

"I want women to learn to grow their own food because my people are struggling," said **Cecilia V.N. Makota**, of Lusaka, Zambia. "There is household security when families have food, children are not hungry, and people can go to work. I encourage women to go back to the land, till it, and produce food so they have access to daily necessities. My organization, **Zambian Women in Agriculture**, lobbies so that women's work in agriculture is respected."

**Kathy Goodwin**, member of the White Earth Chippewa Indian Nation in Naytahwaush, Minnesota, was focusing on community issues. "I am concerned about my people's future," she said. "We are dealing with high unemployment and a high rate of diabetes, which is probably due to poor diet. I want to start a greenhouse and grow organic foods and traditional herbs. I also want to learn more about different types of farming and production techniques."

The importance of small family farms was underscored by interviewees from several countries. **Oyuna Oyuntsetseg**, from Ulan Bator, Mongolia, observed, "Small farms are of interest to the Mongolian people in the aftermath of Soviet rule, which created many state farms and cooperatives. We are setting up small family-based micro-farms so we can be self-sufficient in food and fiber as our country moves to a market economy."

"It was hard for me to get away for this conference as our farm has only two workers—my husband and me," said **Ameena Austin** of St. Phillip, Barbados. "We raise cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, cucumbers, eggplant, herbs, lettuce, melon, okra, papayas, sweet peppers, and tomatoes, which we sell to supermarkets and wholesalers. I would like to get some different seeds and try some different crops that may be adaptable to our tropical climate."

Another couple-run business is that of **Jeanette Long** and her husband, who farm near the city of Adelaide in South Australia. "Because labor in Australia is fairly expensive, rural women are becoming more involved in farming and ranching businesses and in the practical, hands-on work of running a farm," Jeanette remarked. She teaches farming and rural office skills, edits a newsletter for a rural merchandise company, and is helping to organize a

meeting on farming and ranching for 300 rural women in South Australia.

**Maria Elena Landaverde de Gutierrez** of rural El Salvador has benefited from PRODAP, a program initiated with the assistance of Salvadoran First Lady Elizabeth Aguirre de Calderon to help rural women establish agricultural and crafts enterprises. "I have an enterprise of three shops and work as an artisan, making painted seed and bean jewelry, painted wooden trays, and handwoven clothes, belts, and hammocks from natural cotton fiber," she said. "The program has provided me with technical assistance on running a business, accounting, and getting my product to market as well as reading and writing skills. Cooperatives set up through this program help us raise cattle, grain, and fruits and vegetables."

Also benefitting from PRODAP is **Maria Dolores Garcia de Escobar** of El Salvador. "Before this empowerment program," she says, "our role as women was to take care of children and domestic chores. Now, I am also proud to be a farmer. I am involved in work that generates income. I am a woman who works in the field and in the home without neglecting either."



PHOTO BY M. WENZ

**Sue Beitlich** and her husband manage Hillcrest Farm—a small dairy farm in Stoddard, Wisconsin, which has been in the family since 1865. "My goal is to preserve the small family farm," Sue noted. "Somebody has to feed our grandchildren."

Sue is State Director of the Wisconsin Farmers Union. She also works with a career guidance center in a local high school, where she promotes careers in agriculture. "One person working on a very small scale can still make a difference," she observed. ■



A wide range of resources are available to assist small farmers and ranchers and their communities. Readers wishing further information about the resources listed below are asked to contact the individuals or offices listed for each item.



## PRINT MEDIA

### Are There Any Public Lands for Sale?

This pamphlet describes a Federal program to sell undeveloped public land. The cost is \$1.00. For further information, contact the Consumer Information Center, Dept. 106E, Pueblo, CO 81009 (telephone: 1-888/878-3256; fax: 719/948-9724). The publication also is available on the Consumer Information Center website (<http://www.pueblo.gsa.gov>).

**Back in Thyme.** The topics covered in this bimonthly newsletter include the history of heirloom flowers, fragrant herbs, and prairie plants and their use in gardening, cooking, and crafts. The cost of a 1-year subscription is \$20 (U.S.), \$24 (Canada), or \$30 (overseas). To order, contact Back in Thyme Gardens, Inc., 517 E. Fourth St., P.O. Box 963, Tonganoxie, KS 66086-0963 (telephone: 913/845-9309; fax: 913/845-9313; e-mail: [BacknThyme@aol.com](mailto:BacknThyme@aol.com); website: <http://www.BackinThymeGarden.com>).

**Directory of the Canning, Freezing, Preserving Industries.** This directory (1998-1999 edition) lists packers of canned, frozen, dried/dehydrated, and preserved food products in North America, along with detailed company profiles. The cost is \$175 (standard edition) or \$275 (deluxe edition with extra sections). For further informa-



tion, contact Edward E. Judge & Sons, Inc., Publishers, P.O. Box 866, Westminster, MD 21158 (telephone: 1-800/729-5517 or 410/876-2052; fax: 410/848-2034; website: <http://www.eejudge.com>).

**Dynamic Farmers' Marketing.** Farmers wishing to sell farm products via local farmers' markets may be interested in *Dynamic Farmers' Marketing: A Guide to Successfully Selling Your Farmers' Market Products* by Jeff W. Ishee. The book covers farmers' market organization and rules, display methods, and other topics. The cost is \$17.45 (postage included). To order, contact Jeff W. Ishee, Bittersweet Farmstead, P.O. Box 52, Middlebrook, VA 24459 (telephone: 540/886-8477; e-mail: [farmsted@cfw.com](mailto:farmsted@cfw.com)).

**Farmer's Software Newsletter and Catalog.** The Farmer's Software Association offers a free newsletter and product catalog to individuals interested in information, software, and hardware for maintaining farm accounting and crop and livestock records. Also available is a list of site-specific software and hardware, including geographic information systems, global positioning system receivers, yield monitors, and ruggedized computers. To order, contact the Farmer's Software Association, P.O. Box 660, Fort Collins, CO 80522 (telephone: 970/493-1722; fax: 970/493-3938; e-mail: [infor@farmsoft.com](mailto:infor@farmsoft.com); website: <http://www.farmsoft.com>).

**4-H Skills for Life Animal Science Series.** Project activity guides for youngsters are available from the 4-H Cooperative Curriculum System on 11 animal topics: beef cattle, cats, dairy cattle, dogs, goats, horses, pets, poultry, rabbits, sheep, and swine. Also available is a general guide, *Exploring Farm Animals*, as well as adult helpers' guides.

The materials are updated annually. To order, contact your local county extension office or the University of Minnesota Extension Service, Distribution Center, 20 Coffey Hall, 1420 Eckles Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108-6069 (telephone: 612/625-8173; credit card order line: 1-800/876-8636; fax: 612/625-6281; e-mail: [order@extension.umn.edu](mailto:order@extension.umn.edu)).

**Ideas for Sixty Small Farms.** Featured in this 38-page pamphlet are small-farm specialty themes such as "The Urban U-Pick," "Rare Breed," and the "U-Milk Dairy" farm. The cost is \$8.95 (U.S.) or \$9.95 (foreign). For further information, contact author Barbara Berst, National Lilac Publishing Company at Island Meadow Farm, 4925 Sharpe Rd., Anacortes-Fidalgo Island, WA 98221 (e-mail: [berstperkins@earthlink.net](mailto:berstperkins@earthlink.net); website: <http://www.garden-villagekeeper.com>).

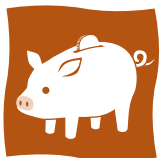
**Women in Agriculture and Rural Life: An International Bibliography.** Published to coincide with the Second International Conference on Women in Agriculture held in Washington, DC, June 28-July 2, this bibliography contains 1,563 citations on women as farmers and agricultural professionals. Available at no cost. To order, contact Mary V. Gold, National Agricultural Library, Rm. 304, USDA, 10301 Baltimore Blvd., Beltsville, MD 20705-2351 (telephone: 301/504-6559; fax: 301/504-6409; e-mail: [mgold@nal.usda.gov](mailto:mgold@nal.usda.gov)). ■

A number of grant, loan, and training programs are available to support small farmers and their communities. Examples of such programs are summarized below. Readers wishing additional information are asked to contact the individuals or offices listed for each item.



applications involving several partners—including producers—in project development and implementation. Applications must be postmarked no later than January 26, 1999.

For further information, contact the Northeast Regional SARE Program, Hills Bldg., University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05405-0082 (telephone: 802/656-0471; e-mail: [nesare@zoo.uvm.edu](mailto:nesare@zoo.uvm.edu)) or visit the program's website (<http://www.uvm.edu/~nesare/>).



## GRANTS, LOANS, TRAINING

**SARE Program.** Grant awards to support profitable, environmentally sound agriculture are available as part of USDA's Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program. SARE sponsors farm-based projects, research and education programs, and professional development for extension and related personnel.

Four regional councils (North Central, Northeast, Southern, and Western) administer grant applications and make funding recommendations to USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, which supports the program. The program has funded more than 1,200 projects since its inception in 1988.

The Northeast Region SARE Program is offering grants in support of the projects listed below for applicants from the Northeast region, which consists of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Individuals wishing additional information are encouraged to contact the Northeast Region SARE office (see below).

**Farmer-Directed Projects.** Grants ranging from a few hundred to a few thousand dollars each are available

to support farm-based projects that address issues such as food, nonfood, or forest crop production, processing, and marketing in the context of natural resource stewardship, pollution prevention, and improved farm profitability and quality of life. Projects typically include small research trials, educational activities, and demonstrations. Applications under this program are accepted only from farmers or woodlot owners and must be postmarked no later than December 11, 1998.

**Research, Education, and On-Farm Demonstrations.** Also offered is support for projects that increase knowledge and adoption of sustainable agriculture practices. Grant awards have ranged from \$6,000 to more than \$150,000 for projects typically lasting no longer than 3 years. The Council encourages proposals that address agricultural issues from a whole-farm perspective and that enlist collaboration, as appropriate, from diverse disciplines and organizations (e.g., farmers, university researchers, nonprofit organizations, processors and marketers of agricultural products, and local, State, and Federal agencies). Applications must be postmarked no later than January 20, 1999.

**Professional Development.** The Council is offering grants to research or educational institutions to provide agricultural extension and related professionals with educational opportunities in sustainable agriculture concepts and techniques. Grants of approximately \$6,000—\$130,000 are awarded for up to 3 years. SARE encourages



## NEW CROPS

**Scotch Bonnet Peppers.** Supplying niche markets has proven to be an effective way to increase profits on small acreage. Florida A&M University's Cooperative Extension Program has set up demonstration plots to test the market potential and profitability of Scotch Bonnet hot peppers as an alternative crop. These peppers, popular in the Caribbean, Asia, and Africa, are known for their distinctive pungency and spicy flavor. Participating farmers provide land, irrigation, and labor, and Cooperative Extension contributes seedlings, fertilizer, pesticides, and material for drip irrigation. Extension specialists and personnel from the Small Farmer Outreach Project provide training and technical assistance in production and financial management techniques.

This alternative crop is exhibiting good income-generating potential for small farmers in north Florida. For additional information, contact Cassel Gardner, Florida A&M University, Cooperative Extension Program, 215 Perry-Paige Bldg., South Tallahassee, FL 32307 (telephone: 850/599-3546; fax: 850/561-2151). ■

## FEMA Offers Animal Disaster Readiness Courses

Disasters—seasonal floods, severe winter weather, hurricanes, tornados, drought, earthquakes, hazardous material spills, or even a nuclear-power-plant accident—can happen anywhere. Although not all emergencies call for evacuation of farm animals, many disaster situations can be alleviated by preparedness strategies that include a plan for animal evacuation and care.

Two new independent study courses on animals in disaster situations are being offered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to advance education in this

area. “Consideration of animals in disaster readiness strategies is receiving increased emphasis — based in part on the experiences of disaster evacuation officials,” says FEMA Training Manager Joe Bills, who coordinated the development of the new course. “Emergency personnel attempting to evacuate disaster victims find that people are reluctant to leave their animals behind. With greater knowledge of animal disaster preparedness, farm and ranch families will be able to leave their homes secure in the knowledge that their animals are safe.”

The courses, available at no cost, were developed by FEMA’s Emergency Management Institute in consultation with veterinarians, representatives of national and local humane organizations, emergency

management officials, and others. *Animals in Disaster: Awareness and Preparedness* (IS-010) provides people with background information on ways in which disasters can affect farmers and ranchers, the community, and animals. *Animals in Disaster: Community Planning* (IS-011) helps people learn to work effectively with community organizations and emergency management agencies to prepare for disaster situations involving animals.

For additional information on the course, contact the FEMA Independent Study Program, Emergency Management Institute, 16825 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg, MD 21727 or visit the FEMA website (<http://www.fema.gov/home/emii/home.htm>). ■

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### WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE...CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

of bad exports doesn’t wipe out a family’s farm heritage. ...The more we make women’s issues agriculture’s issues and America’s issues and the world’s, the brighter all our futures will be in the 21st century.”

### FEATURED SPEAKERS

Other featured speakers included Gilbert Normand, Canada’s Secretary of State for Agriculture; Andrew Peacock, Australian Ambassador to the United States; Concepcion Dancausa Trevino, Director, Women’s Institute, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Spain; Senator Beatrix Paredes, Mexico; Princess Irene Ndagire, Uganda; Teresa Sola, Under Secretary for Women’s Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Relations, Argentina; Sissel Ekaas, Director, Women and Population, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization; Elizabeth Aguirre de Calderon, First Lady of El Salvador; Rep. Marcy Kaptur (OH); Rep. Eva Clayton (NC); Kitty Higgins, Deputy

Secretary, U.S. Department of Labor; and Jill Long Thompson, Conference Chair and Under Secretary for Rural Development, USDA.

### COOPERATION EMPHASIZED

An informal theme frequently in evidence at the meeting centered on international cooperative efforts to advance the status of women in agriculture. “The time, space, and distance that separate us are not as strong as the common bond that joins us,” stated Jill Long Thompson in the opening session June 28. “I call on all women who came to the conference to expand and advance opportunities in the agricultural sector for our world sisters and daughters around the globe.”

Mary Salce, convener of the First International Conference on Women in Agriculture held in Melbourne, Australia, in 1994, affirmed this theme, stating, “Since 1994, we have taken the first steps to take women’s role in agriculture seriously and to seek respect

for women and acclaim for women’s work in the agricultural sector...”

The meeting emphasized practical solutions and strategies in presentations such as “Women Managing Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture,” “Insurance-Purchasing Groups for Rural Women,” “Ethics of Modern Agriculture,” “Alternative Marketing Options,” and “Women Farmers and the Global Economy.” A conference proceedings will be available early next year.

The Third International Conference on Women in Agriculture will be held in Spain at a date to be announced. For further information, contact Leanne Powell, Second International Conference on Women in Agriculture, Rm. 206-W, Jamie L. Whitten Federal Bldg., U. S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, DC 20250 (telephone: 202/720-4581; fax: 202/720-2080) or visit the Conference web page (<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rd/icwa>). ■



## CSA Program Harvests Jobs for Disabled Workers

Developmentally disabled adults are finding educational and employment opportunities as growers in conjunction with a community-supported agriculture (CSA) program of the Red Wiggler Foundation, a horticultural therapy and vocational training facility located on Wildcat Spring Farm near Clarksburg, MD. "We focus on the abilities of people with disabilities," says Woody Woodroof, Executive Director of the foundation. "Our farm offers a wide range of job opportunities, from planting and cultivating organic fruits and vegetables to interacting with CSA subscribers and selling the produce at local farmers' markets."

The foundation, which takes its name from the red wiggler worm, works with local schools to identify developmentally disabled adults who wish to learn to become growers. A horticulturist, supported by grants, donations, and produce sales, sets up an organic garden. A job coach works with the growers as well as with volunteers, some of whom also have disabili-



Woody Woodroof (standing) with Red Wiggler Foundation workers on Wildcat Spring Farm near Clarksburg, MD.—PHOTO/STEPHANIE OLSON

ties. All of the growers are paid for their work from produce sales supplemented by tax-deductible donations.

For an annual fee, CSA subscribers receive 22 shipments of fresh organic produce throughout the growing season. "We encourage CSA subscribers to come to the farm to pick up their produce, participate in potluck suppers, and pick surplus vegetables," Woodroof says. "This helps people develop a sense of connection with their food source. It also enables our growers to under-

stand that their work is meaningful and gives them the chance to build a sense of pride in their work."

The foundation recently was accepted as a Capital Area United Way participant and has a Combined Federal Campaign designation for receipt of charitable contributions. For additional information, contact Woody Woodroof, Red Wiggler Foundation, Wildcat Spring Farm, 25214 Peachtree Rd., Clarksburg, MD 20871 (telephone/fax: 301/916-4133; e-mail: redwiggler@erols.com). ■

### CIVIL RIGHTS...CONTINUED FROM PG. 2

the tide of black land loss, then it is time for all of us who care about this issue to roll up our sleeves. We need the strong involvement of Congress, civil rights groups, private companies, and citizens."

Glickman's address is accessible on the USDA home page (<http://www.usda.gov/news/releases/1998/07/0288>). The Team report, *Civil Rights at the United States Department of Agriculture: One Year of Change*, is accessible via <http://www.usda.gov/da/cr/finals.htm> ■

## Guide to USDA Programs

Earlier this year, USDA Secretary Dan Glickman announced the publication of a *Guide to USDA Programs for American Indians and Alaska Natives*. "We are committed to ensuring that USDA's programs are available to the traditionally underserved communities," Glickman said. "This publication reflects our concerted efforts to reach the American Indian and Alaska Native populations."

The 136-page book describes a variety of programs in areas such as natural resources and conservation, agricultural production and loans, feeding initiatives, rural development, food safety, research, animal agriculture, and civil rights. A bibliography of materials (1992-97) on American Indians and Alaska Natives—available from the National Agricultural Library—also is included. The publication is accessible on the USDA home page (<http://www.usda.gov/news/pubs/indians/open.htm>). ■

# UPCOMING

# EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Dec. 1	<i>2nd Annual Entrepreneurial Agriculture Conference</i>	Jonesboro, AR	Jim Worstell • 870/673-6346
Dec. 6–8	<i>56th Professional Agricultural Workers Conference</i>	Tuskegee, AL	Ntam Baharanyi • 334/727-8454
Jan. 4–7	<i>Beltwide Cotton Conferences</i>	Orlando, FL	Debbie Richter • 901/274-9030
Jan. 8	<i>New England Vegetable and Berry Meeting</i>	Chicopee, MA	Dominic Marini • 508/378-2546
Jan. 13–15	<i>Workforce Management for Farms and Horticultural Businesses: Finding, Training, and Keeping Good Employees</i>	Camp Hill, PA	Holly Hyde • 607/255-7654
Jan. 15–17	<i>Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group Annual Conference and Trade Show</i>	Jekyll Island, GA	Chris Campany • 225/336-9532

The above entries reflect information available as *Small Farm Digest* went to press. For a more extensive list of events, see CSREES' Small Farm website (<http://www.reeusda.gov/smallfarm>). *Small Farm Digest* welcomes information on upcoming events. Please send submissions to Stephanie Olson, Editor, *Small*

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